VIRGIL FOX
THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
NEW YORK CITY

Tuesday afternoon

Dear Mr. Exman,

I hope I didn't seem uninterested when you spoke to me last night about Lucile Cummings. I felt that I may have displayed a rather cold attitude about the whole thing. I only hope it was only my imagination for I should never want to do such a thing, especially to you. There are some reasons for the feeling and I think I should explain it to you.

You knew both Dick and Virgil before I did and probably knew how they worked out their combined schedule together. It seemed to work satisfactorily for years and by doing it that way, they produced some of the most beautiful music ever possible. And they still are.

However, since I have come to New York, their lives have altered a bit. I was asked to come in the first place by Virgil. At first, I only took over a few of the things which Dick had tried to do for Virgil for years, but gradually, I have taken over many things. This system has been most favorable for Virgil, for by my working with him the past two years, I have gotten to understand him and know just when I can expect him to accomplish the business matters that are expected of a person in his position. He is different from the average person. He detests anything to do with details and business, as you know. But he has so many other talents that he gives to people all over the country, that he makes up for it. And I try to fill the gap a bit in the other respect.

It is such a relief to Virgil to have someone here whom he can count on to keep track of things (or try to) and be able to take the time to do it, that having me here has been a help to him. His adjustment was easy.

But for Dick, it was different. At first he thought it was a good idea and even thought I could help him, too. But then the difficulties set in. Virgil explained to him that he was paying me to help him and not Dick. And Dick is the sort of person who accepts all he can. I tried to strike a happy medium between them and offered to help Dick when I could - on my own. But lately, doing Virgil's concert details, plus his secretarial duties, plus trying to write and get somewhere with a radio program for Riverside Church, I just haven't the time to help Dick. And I don't have time to ask him things or talk over other things, like I used to. Now, I just make the decisions by myself.

For some reason, Dick can't seem to accept this system and makes it as difficult as possible for me. Perhaps he feels he no longer is necessary to Virgil and that was Virgil's only interest in him. Actually,

he and Virgil could spend more time together because of what I am doing. But Dick makes himself so unpleasant when Virgil arrives back in town, that Virgil just ignores him. It is all so silly and they are both muhh older than I.

Since I am doing the managing work, I decided - of my own accord - to keep away from the music schedule here at the church. Believe me, when I say I miss not being around the rehearsals and at the organ with Virgil during the services. But I thought it the best thing to do.

However, I am still at the church every day and now and then a funeral or weddigg comes up which requires special music, which Dick cannot play, or else Dick isn't in the building at the time. Naturally, the ministers or Miss Fagan call on me. But each time it occurrs, Dick becomes moody and absolutely upset about it. I realize that he depends on the money to add to his salary. But I have gotten along on such a small budget the past years, that I couldn't quite understand his unwillingness to let me play even the few times I have.

Lately, he has just seemed to count everything that is done around here and checks it all to make sure he gets his share. It really is hard to take, especially when I have know him to be different and have enjoyed so many good times with him.

The contralto soloist was a trouble - (finally we get aroound to it!) Every time Virgil suggests someone, that will surely be one Dick won't like. Perhaps that is why Virgil asked you to call this girl. Dick said that Virgil should call the music committee as much and often as he, and that is the reason I got involved in the first place. Many unpleasant things were said and done regarding the whole thing, all of which I could not and would not enumerate. But Dick embarrasses me all the time in fron t of other people, making curt remakes about Virgil. People get the wrong impression from it and begin wondering about Dick and Virgil.

I don't think Dick means all that he says and I really believe he is sorry after he says it. But that does not alter the fact of what the others have heard and thought. Sometimes I feel that I should leave and let them go back to their old system. But Virgil has gone ahead so much in so many ways, that I can't quite decide what to do.

Anyway, sometimes I get moody, too, and I rather felt I was that way last night. I only hope you will understand. And I know that this can only be staightened out by the three people involved. Perhaps when Dick completes his Town Hall recital and European tour, he will be different. I only hope and pray so.

And thanks to you for reading this. It has helped in a way, to tell it to someone whom I think will understand. And certainly, I would never tell another soul.

Sincerely yours,

Roberta

Please excuse bad typing + I'll see you tomorrow night.